

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Pectoral Sandpiper

How Many?1

Location?Big Creek State Park, Polk Co.

Habitat?mudflat area at north end of lake

Date?through 1 Dec 1987

Time?last seen around 4:35-4:45 p.m. on 1 Dec

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:Bart Ballard

Description of bird:This bird had been present at this location since 19 Nov. The bird was smaller than the several Killdeer and Common Snipe present at the same location. The bird did appear larger than a peep, even though there were no peeps for direct comparison. Other features noted on the bird include; fine brown streaking on the upper breast cut off sharply from the white belly, brownish wings and back, light eyeline, dark, thin, slightly decurved bill, and yellowish legs. On at last one occasion when the bird was flushed it said "kleep".

Similar species and how eliminated:The size, yellowish legs, and well defined "necklace" eliminates all other shorebirds except Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The fact the the eyeline did not broaden behind the eye and the streaked rather than buffy breast eliminates Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions varied from day to day, but were generally very good. Estimated viewing distance was as close as 40-50 feet on several occasions. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope and Nikon 8x23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species:I am very familiar with Pectoral Sandpipers and all of the peeps. Therefore, I am sure the bird was correctly identified.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 4 Dec 1987